

Fruits Basket

TOUKAICHI



17

www.toukaichi.com

Fruits Basket

Volume 17



Natsuki Takaya

Fruits Basket™

Table of Contents

Chapter 96	12
Chapter 97	45
Chapter 98	75
Chapter 99	105
Chapter 100	136
Chapter 101	196
Fans Basket	202
Cosplay Special	208

Filler
Sketch



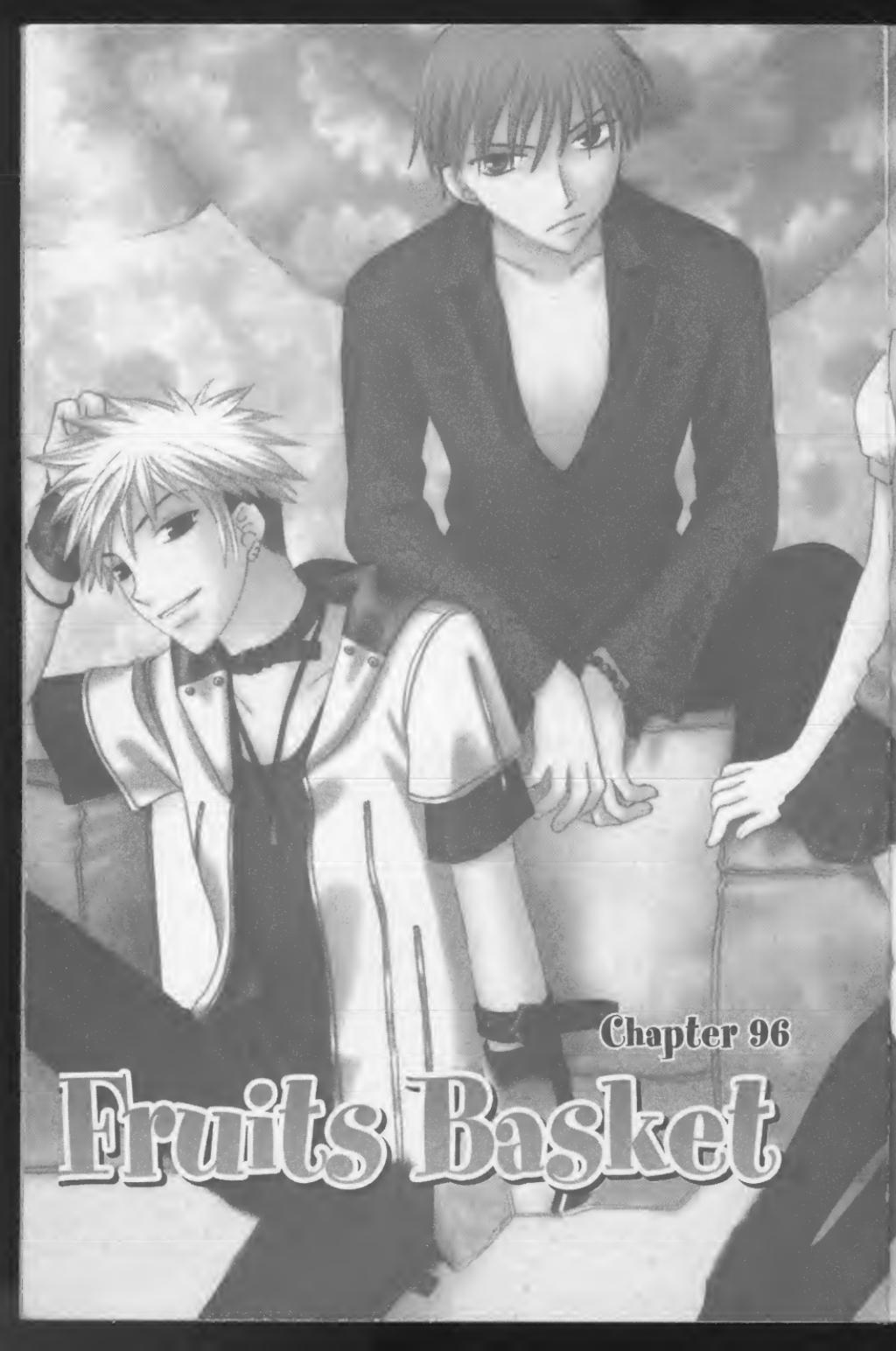


STORY SO FAR...

Hello, I'm Tohru Honda and I have come to know a terrible secret. After the death of my mother, I was living by myself in a tent, when the Sohma family took me in. I soon learned that the Sohma family lives with a curse! Each family member is possessed by the vengeful spirit of an animal from the Chinese Zodiac. Whenever one of them becomes weak or is hugged by a member of the opposite sex, they change into their Zodiac animal!







Chapter 96

Fruits Basket

Filler
Sketch





...AND A
CAGE.



A
LIBER-
ATION...



IT CAME
ALL TOO
QUICKLY.



AN END
AND A
BEGINNING.



YOU'RE
STILL NOT
FEELING
WELL,
AKITO?



KURENO.



I'M
COLD...

KURENO...

COME
CLOSER.

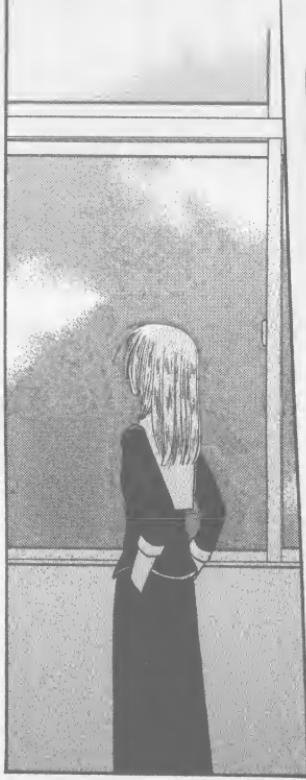


BE
CLOSER
TO ME.



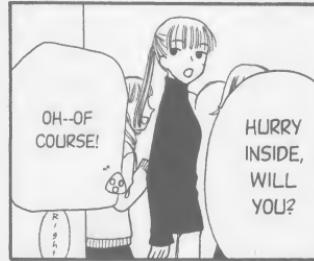
KURENO.







AND THEY'RE MAKING US REHEARSE THE GRADUATION CEREMONY OUT THERE. DAMMIT!





Fruits Basket 17

Pleased to meet you and hello. This is Takaya, presenting Volume 17. The cover is Hana-chan!

...Somehow it's been no time at all. I feel like time's passing by very quickly these days; I don't know if it's because I'm pushing forward or if it's because of my age. There are a lot of games on sale that I want to play, too, but I don't have the time, so I feel like they're piling up...

There may be people who think, "If you're not going to play it now, buy it later!" but I want to have it on hand. (How can I say what I mean here?) So that someday, when I have time, I can start playing. I wonder if anyone can understand that feeling (laugh).

Well then, please enjoy Furuba 17!







I'M SORRY.
DID I...

OH.



I JUST...

THIS?
OH, IT'S FINE.

YES! AND THE SAME TO YOU!

I CAME TO WISH YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

B-BUT, YUKI-KUN! YOUR FOREHEAD-- IT'S HURT!





SO HE
LET ME
HAVE IT.

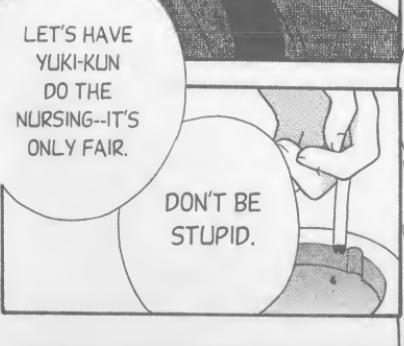
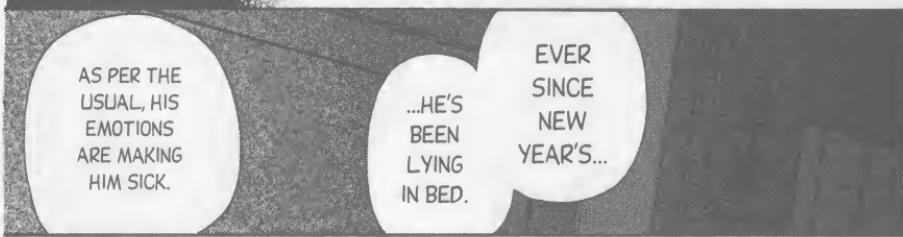
I
DEFIED
AKITO.

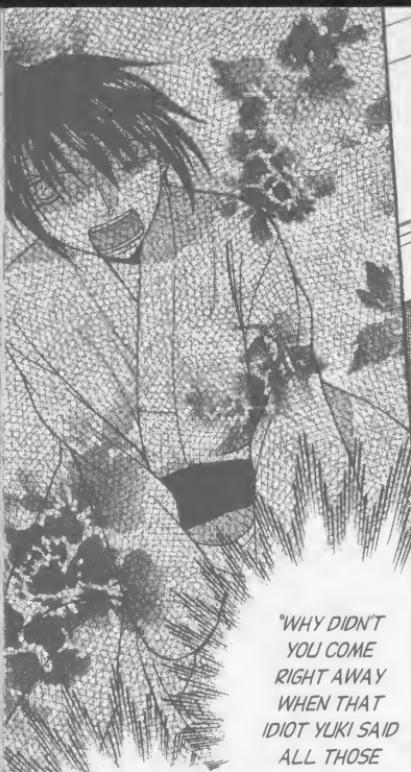








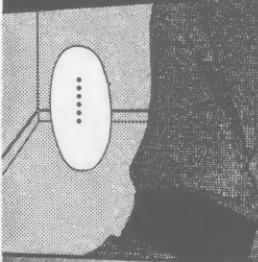




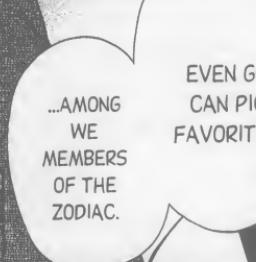


HE'S
THE
ONE...

...WHO
CHOSE
KURENO.



...AMONG
WE
MEMBERS
OF THE
ZODIAC.



EVEN GOD
CAN PICK
FAVORITES...



IT'S NOT
THAT HE
CHOSE
HIM.



THERE'S
SOMETHING
NOT RIGHT
ABOUT HIM.



C'MON,
HATORI.



WITH
KURENO.



NONE OF
YOU HAVE
EVER
FELT IT?

YOU'RE
DUCKING
UNDER
THIS ONE.

I MEAN,
HE
MIGHT
BE...

HE...

I DON'T
WANT YOU
TELLING
ME THAT
I'M NOT
FAIR.

SAD?

IS IT
BECAUSE
YOU'RE
AFRAID?

Ha ha.
YOU'RE
RIGHT. I'M...
WAIT.

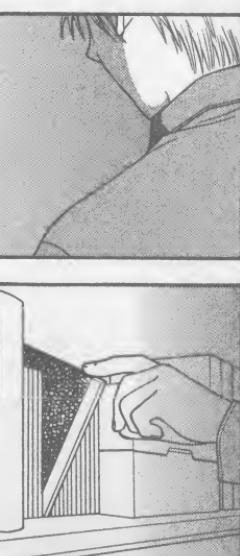
I SAID THIS TO
SOMEONE BEFORE.
WHO WAS THAT?
AND DOES IT
MATTER?

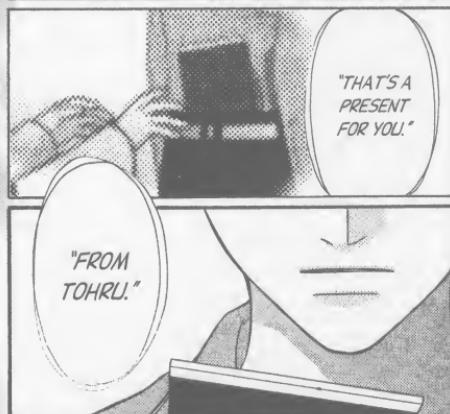
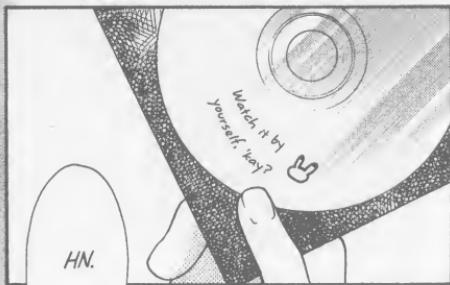
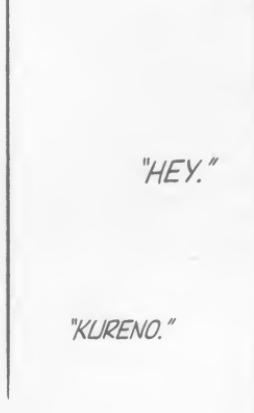
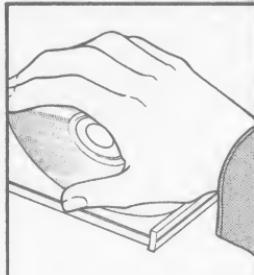
Whoever it was.

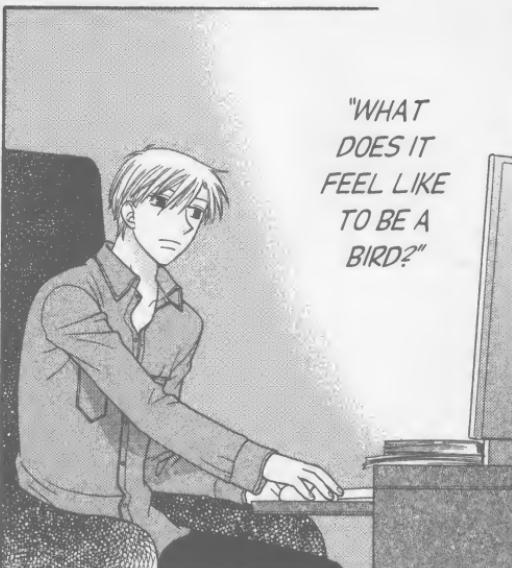
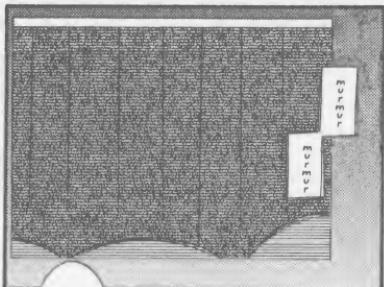
THAT'S
NOT FAIR.

TO THE
"BOND," I
MEAN.

BECAUSE YOU
CAN HATE IT
BUT NOT LET
GO OF YOUR
ATTACHMENT
TO IT?









"I'M WORRIED
ABOUT YOU.
YOU STUPID
LUG, AND
THIS IS MY
THANKS?"



"GO BUY
YOURSELF
SOME
COURTESY!"



"THINK OF
ALL THE
STAR-CROSSED
LOVERS WHO
WOULD KILL
FOR THINGS
THIS EASY!"



"ALL THOSE
STAR-
CROSSED
LOVERS..."



"...WHO JUST
WANNA SEE
EACH OTHER..."



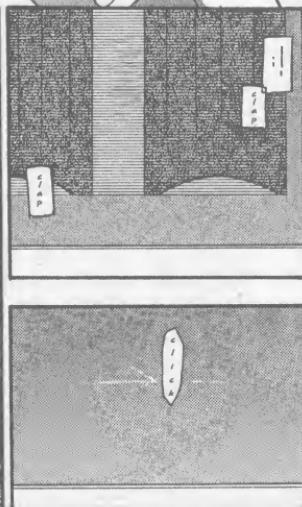
"WHAT
ARE YOU
BROODING
ABOUT,
SUNSHINE?"

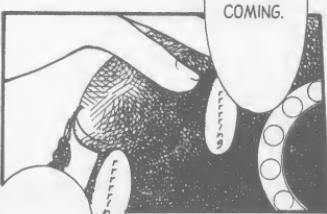
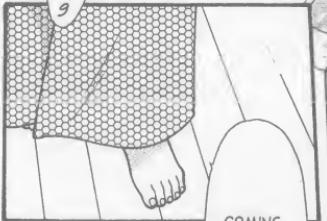
"WE THREW
THIS GIANT
THING FOR
YOU."





**"DON'T
ABANDON
ME!"**





...HM?
TOHRU-KUN'S
STILL AT
SCHOOL.

THIS IS
UNUSUAL.

flutter

IT MIGHT
EVEN BE
A FIRST.

AND I THINK THE
PROBABILITY OF
ANYONE ASKING
FOR TOHRU-
KUN FIRST IS
PRETTY LOW
TO BEGIN WITH.

WHY ARE
YOU ASKING
FOR TOHRU-
KUN AGAIN?

I DON'T
SEE THE
CONNECTION.

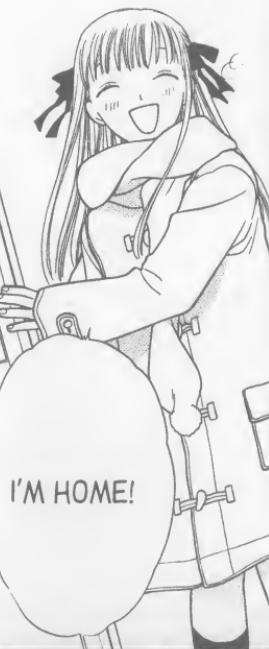
WHAT
BUSINESS
DO YOU
HAVE WITH
HER?

BUT I DIDN'T
EXPECT THIS
AT ALL.

HAVE
YOU...

!! slide

!!



CAN I ASK
SOMETHING
I'VE BEEN
WONDERING
ABOUT FOR
A WHILE?

BY THE
WAY,
KURENO.

ARE
YOU...

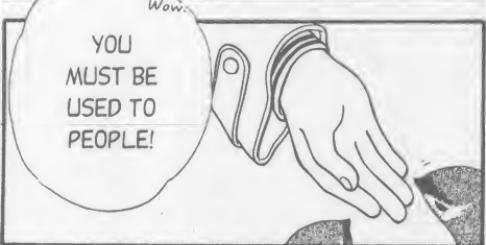
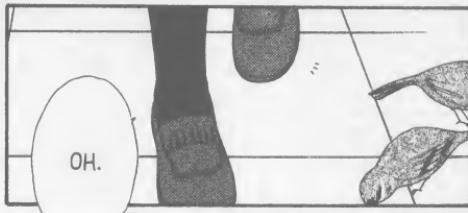
WELL.

...I NEED TO
TALK ABOUT
WITH YOU, TOO,
SHIGURE-NIISAN.

THERE
MIGHT BE
SOMETHING
...

IT'S
ABOUT
TIME.







"WELL."



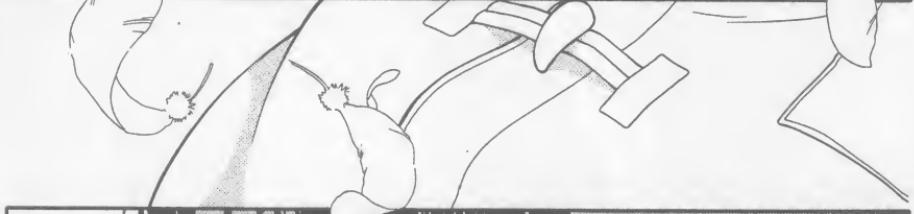
"HAVE
YOU..."

"FROM THE
CURSE."



"...BEEN
RELEASED?"

Chapter 97





AND WHEN
YOU'RE
POSSESSED
BY A SPIRIT,
THAT
ANIMAL...

I
THOUGHT...

...YOU WERE
POSSESSED
BY THE
SPIRIT OF
THE BIRD.

BUT...

THEY
FLEW
AWAY.

KURENO...

WHEN
YOU
ARRIVED.

...SAN.

"A LONG TIME AGO
WHEN I WAS IN
THE MOUNTAINS
WITH KAGURA, WE
WERE SURROUNDED
BY BOARS."

"THEY
COME ON
THEIR
OWN, SO IT
CAN'T BE
HELPED."

"THEY JUST
COME FOR THE
DOG, IT'S DOGS;
FOR THE RAT,
IT'S RATS."

KURENO-
SAN.

UH...

HUH?

THE
BIRDS.



"WE
TRANSFORM."



"WHEN
HUGGED..."



"BY THE
OPPOSITE
GENDER, WE
TRANSFORM."



RIGHT.

BUT I'M
NOT LIKE
THAT
ANYMORE.

I WON'T
TRANSFORM.

MY
CURSE...

...HAS
ALREADY...

...BEEN
BROKEN.

I WAS A
LITTLE
YOUNGER
THAN YOU
ARE NOW.

IT
HAPPENED
YEARS AGO.

I...

"I CAN'T
THINK
OF HIM
AS ONE
OF US."

NOW
...

"YOU'RE
LUCKY."

"HE HARDLY
EVEN
ASSOCIATES
WITH THE
OTHER
MEMBERS OF
THE ZODIAC."

...I'M NO
LONGER
ONE OF
THE
ZODIAC.



I CAN'T
FLY
ANYMORE.





HMPH.

RIGHT AWAY!

FIND HIM.

HOW
DID THE
CURSE...?

HOW?

IT
HAPPENED
SO SUDDENLY.

I
REALLY
DON'T.

I
DON'T
KNOW.

...THE
CURSE
WAS
BROKEN.

WITHOUT
ANY
WARNING...

WHY?!



AND
THERE
WAS
NOTHING
TO DRIVE
ME AWAY.

LIKE
THERE
WAS NO
ONE INSIDE
ME BUT
"ME."

IT FELT
LIKE MY
FIELD OF
VISION HAD
ABRUPTLY
BEEN
OPENED.



IT
FELT
LIKE...

...I'D
FINALLY
BECOME
HUMAN.

FINALLY.

I'D NEVER
BE ABLE TO
FLY IN THAT
SKY AGAIN.
IT MADE ME
BOTH SAD...

I REALIZED
SOMETHING.

THE SKY
WAS SO
BLUE
THAT
DAY.

AND I
WAS
HAPPY.

...AND
ELATED.

At first, maybe people didn't really know the word "waves," because I got asked what it means a lot.

Hana-chan.



- With her father, mother, grandmother, and younger brother (Megumi), Hana-chan has a family of five.

- I think I've mentioned everything about Hana-chan in the story, so there's not really anything to add.

- She likes shoujo manga and shoujo novels more (?) than you'd expect.

- After the sleepover, she made sure to buy "Summer-Colored Sigh" and read it again.

- Her admiration for Shishou is strong.

- But I wonder if my thinking they'd make a good couple is just my blind love for them as their creator (laugh).

KURENO-SAN.

WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ZODIAC?

THEY STILL THINK YOU'RE THE BIRD.

EVEN NOW.

AREN'T YOU?

A-AND YOU'RE STILL BY AKITO-SAN'S SIDE.

...HAVEN'T BEEN RELEASED FROM?

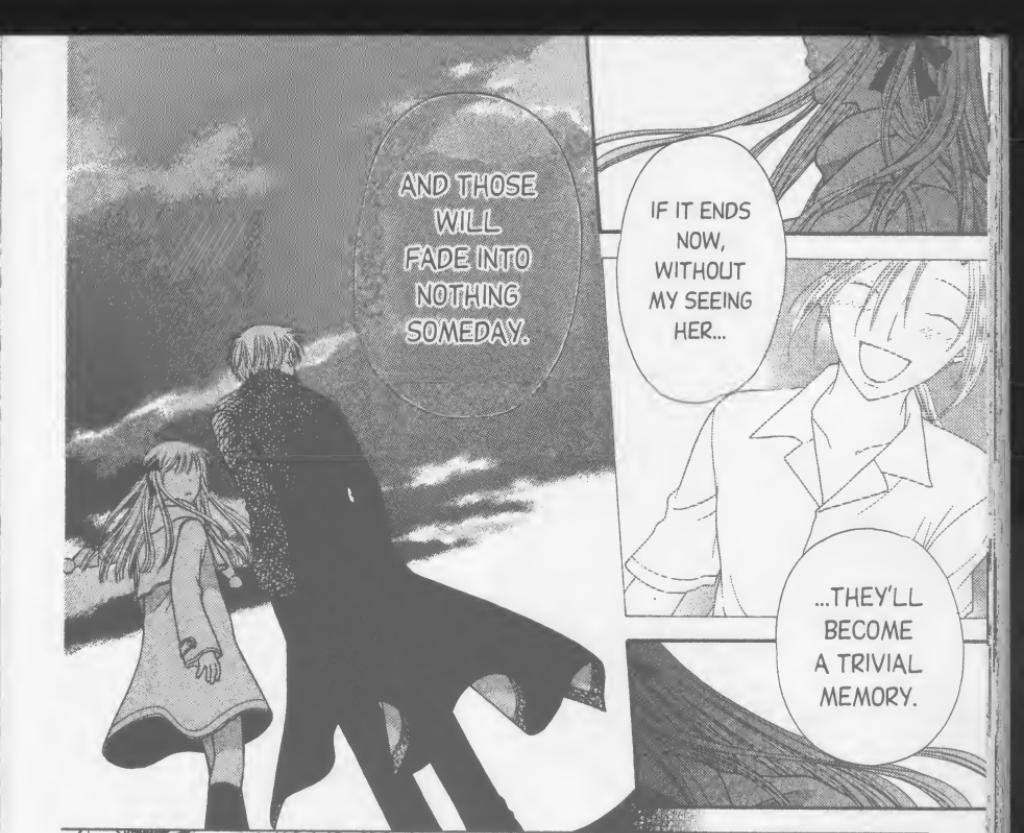
KURENO-SAN...

WHAT IS IT?

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU STILL...







AND THOSE
WILL
FADE INTO
NOTHING
SOMEDAY.

IF IT ENDS
NOW,
WITHOUT
MY SEEING
HER...

...THEY'LL
BECOME
A TRIVIAL
MEMORY.



ALL
RIGHT?





"COME
SEE ME!"

"I DIDN'T
THINK IT
WAS A
WASTE."

"DAM-
MIT!"

"BECAUSE
I WANTED
TO SEE
YOU."

"THEN
SMILE."

"MORE
HAPPILY."





I COULD
HAVE HELD
HER AS
MUCH AS I
WANTED.

IT'S
TRUE.

I'M NOT
POSSESSED
BY A SPIRIT
ANYMORE.

IN
REALITY
...



I CAN
LOVE
ANYONE.

ME, AND
NO ONE
ELSE.

I WAS
RELEASED
SO EASILY
FROM THE
CURSE THAT
EVERYONE
ELSE STILL
SUFFERS
FROM.

I CAN GO
ANYWHERE.

I'M
FREE.



THAT'S
WHY I
HAVE
TO...

BUT...

BUT
THAT'S
EXACTLY
WHY.

...I HAVE
TO BE BY
AKITO'S
SIDE.

AKITO,
CALM DOWN.

WHAT'S
GOING
ON?!

WHAT'S
THE
MATTER,
AKITO-SA--

AKITO.

AKITO?!

GET
AWAY
FROM
US!

DON'T LET
ANYONE COME
UNTIL I SAY
SO. DO YOU
HEAR ME?!

IF ANYONE
COMES, I'LL
KILL THEM!

I'LL KILL
THEM!

AKI...

WHY?!

WHY?

WHY?!



WHY
DID IT
BREAK?!



WHY ARE YOU
LOOKING AT ME
WITH DISTANT
EYES?!

STOP
IT!

...WHAT?

NO.

THOSE
EYES.

WHY ARE
YOUR
EYES SO...
DISTANT?

I
DON'T
LIKE
IT.

YOU'VE
BEEN
LOOKING
AT ME
LIKE THAT.



STAY WITH
ME! YOU
HAVE TO!

DON'T GO!
DON'T
LEAVE
ME!

DON'T EVER
LEAVE
MY SIDE!

DON'T GO
ANYWHERE!

DON'T...

DON'T
LEAVE ME
BEHIND!

DON'T...!

DON'T...



DON'T
ABANDON
ME!

KURENO!



DON'T
GO...!

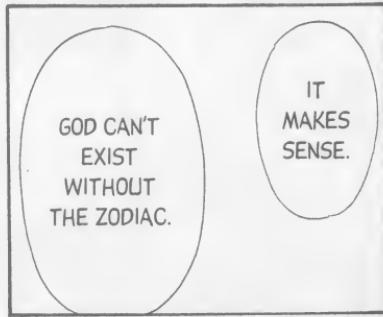
PLEASE!

I'M
BEGGING
YOU.

PLEASE...



I COULDN'T
FORSAKE
HIM.



I
COULDN'T
DO IT.



"I SWEAR IT."

"I'LL
ALWAYS
BE BESIDE
YOU,
AKITO."

"I
SWEAR
TO YOU."

I VOWED
TO STAY
BY HIS
SIDE.

"I'LL
ALWAYS
BE HERE."

I WANTED
TO STOP
AKITO'S
TEARS.

WHATEVER
IT TOOK.

I WAS WILLING,
IF THAT WAS
WHAT IT TOOK
TO STOP THAT
CHILD'S TEARS.

...AND
PRETEND I
WAS STILL
POSSESSED
BY THE BIRD.

I WAS
WILLING TO
LIE TO THE
OTHERS...

THAT WAS
ALL I COULD
THINK OF.

HONESTLY.





BUT I
CAN'T
JUST
LEAVE
HIM.



"MAYBE
IT'S ONLY
PITY."



AND THE
BOND THAT
I USED TO
FEEL...



...IT IS
GONE
NOW.
BUT...



I SWORE
I'D STAY
BY HIS
SIDE.



I'LL
ALWAYS...



UNTIL THE
DAY HE NO
LONGER
NEEDS ME.





...THAN
ANYONE.



TIMID...



FOR
THAT
CHILD.



...AND
WEAK.



WEAKER
THAN
ANYONE.



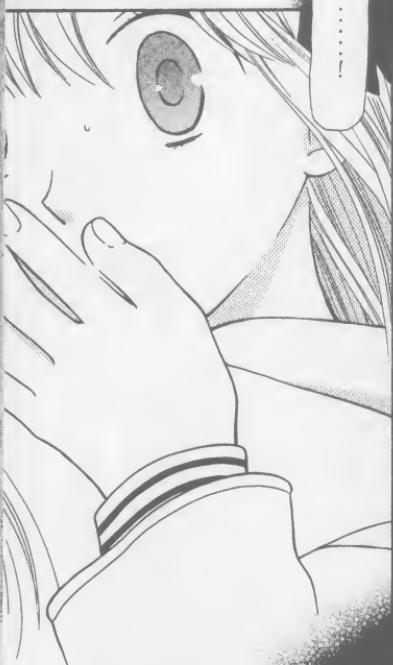
MORE
FRAGILE...



...LITTLE
GIRL.

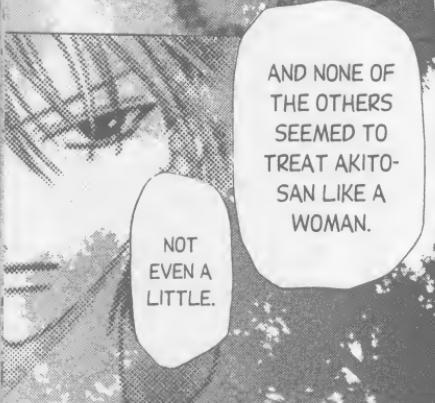
FOR
THAT SAD
...

Chapter 98





A
GIRL!



...SHE WAS
RAISED AS
A MAN.

SINCE THE
DAY AKITO
WAS BORN...

TO
THINK.

SHE'S A
GIRL.

THERE WAS
A TIME
YOU WERE
ALMOST
FOUND AT
THE MAIN
HOUSE.

DO YOU
REMEMBER?

WHO
DECIDED?

HUH?

...DECIDED
ON IT.

THAT
PERSON...





REN
SOHMA.

BUT TO
AKITO, SHE'S
STILL THE
BIGGEST
PART OF
HIS LIFE.

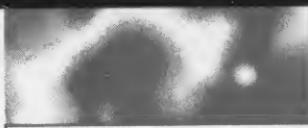
SHE'S A
LITTLE
ILL, BOTH
PHYSICALLY
AND
MENTALLY.

SHE'S
USUALLY
IN A BACK
ROOM.

WHY ARE
YOU EVEN
WANDERING
AROUND
HERE?

GO BACK
TO YOUR
OWN
ROOM!
NOW!

THAT
PERSON.



AKITO'S...

...MOTHER.



THOSE TWO
TRULY HATE
EACH OTHER.

NEITHER
AKITO
NOR REN-
SAN...

...WILL
EXPLAIN
THE REAL
REASON
FOR IT.

THERE'S
ONLY ONE
THING...

...WE KNOW
FOR SURE.

IT WAS
HIS OWN
MOTHER'S
DECISION.

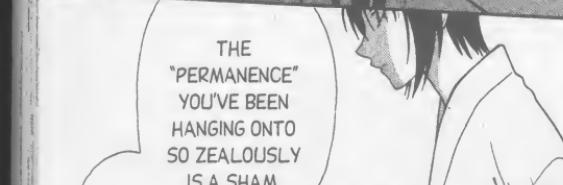
SHE
DECIDED
TO RAISE
AKITO AS
A MAN.





YOU'RE
STILL
SPOUTING
THAT
GARBAGE?

YOU
STUPID
CHILD.



THE
"PERMANENCE"
YOU'VE BEEN
HANGING ONTO
SO ZEALOUSLY
IS A SHAM.

THAT
"PERMA-
NENCE"...



...IS A
DELUSION.



I FEEL SORRY
FOR ALL THE
MEMBERS OF
THE ZODIAC
BEING MADE
TO KEEP YOU
COMPANY.



A LOVE
CONNECTED
BY SUCH
A BOND...



HOW MANY
TIMES DO
I HAVE TO
TELL YOU?



...ISN'T
REAL.

AKITO!

TELL ME
WHAT IS
REAL!

THEN
TELL
ME!

THE LOVE
OF A
PARENT?!
EVEN
THAT ISN'T
PERFECT!

EVEN JUST
WITHIN THE
SOHMA, THERE
ARE TONS OF
PARENTS WHO
LEAVE THEIR
OWN KIDS!

SEE?

Koff
Koff

JUST
LIKE YOU
DID!

NO ONE HAS
THE RIGHT
TO GET RID
OF THEM!

MY
"PERMA-
NENCE"!

NO ONE,
NOT EVEN YOU,
CAN DEFINE
WHAT'S REAL,
WHAT'S A LIE,
WHAT'S PRETENSE,
WHAT'S WORSHIP!

THE REAL
THING?

MY "BOND"
WITH
EVERYONE!

THE REAL
THING DOES
EXIST, AND
I HAVE IT!

I HAVE
IT WITH
AKIRA-SAN!

THAT IS
REAL...!

THE "BOND"
BETWEEN
AKIRA-SAN
AND ME.



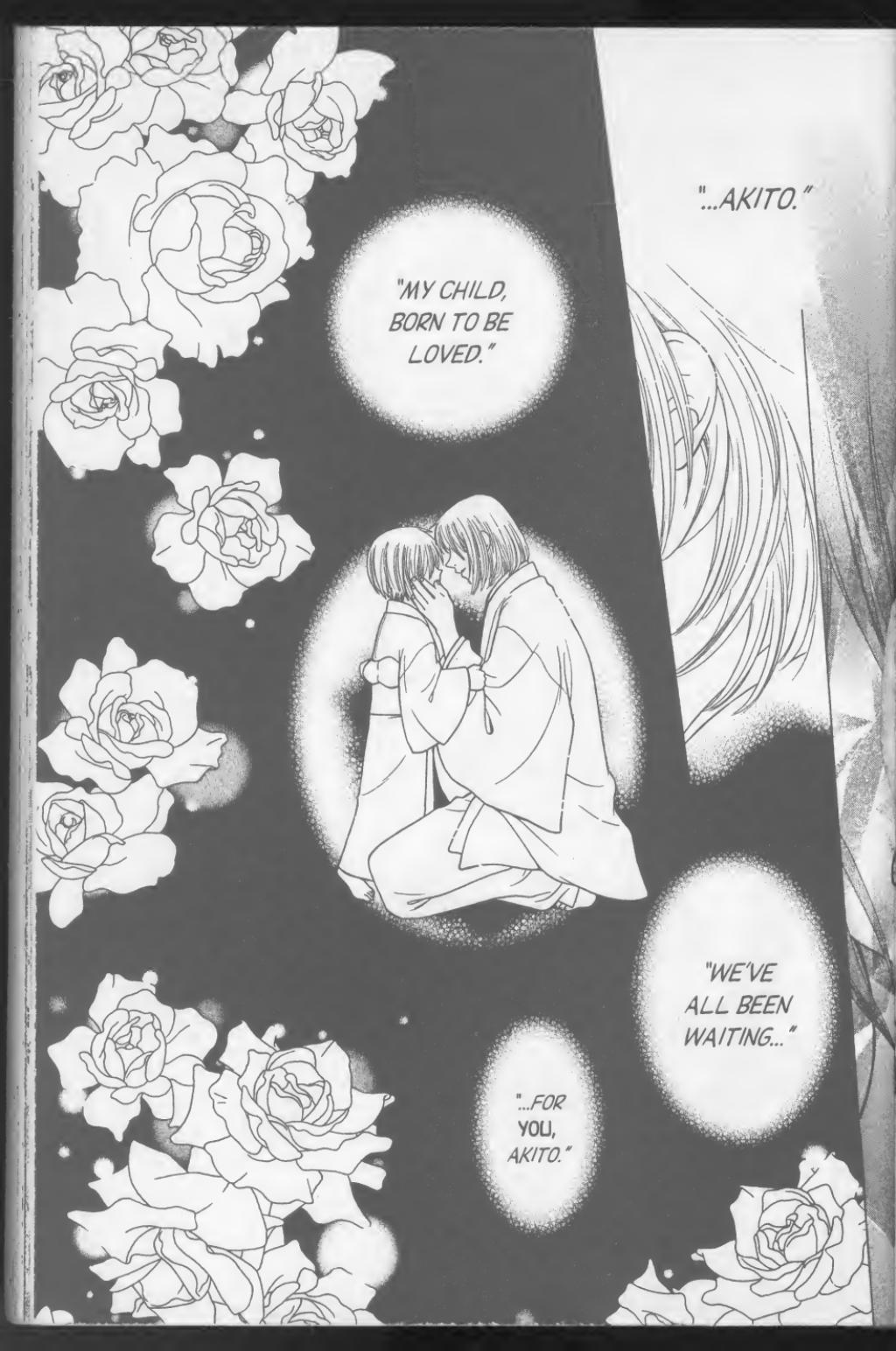
I
CERTAINLY
DON'T NEED
SOMEONE
LIKE YOU!

I'LL
KILL
YOU!

I'LL
KILL
YOU!

FINE,
KILL
ME!

IF I DIE, MY
SOUL WILL
RISE TO
HEAVEN.



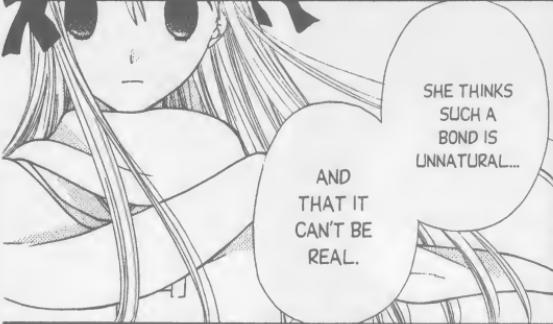
"...AKITO."

"MY CHILD,
BORN TO BE
LOVED."



"WE'VE
ALL BEEN
WAITING..."

"...FOR
YOU,
AKITO."



AND THAT IT CAN'T BE REAL.

SHE THINKS SUCH A BOND IS UNNATURAL...



THAT'S WHY SHE'S CONSTANTLY BUTTING HEADS WITH AKITO, WHO CLINGS TO THAT BOND.



REN-SAN...



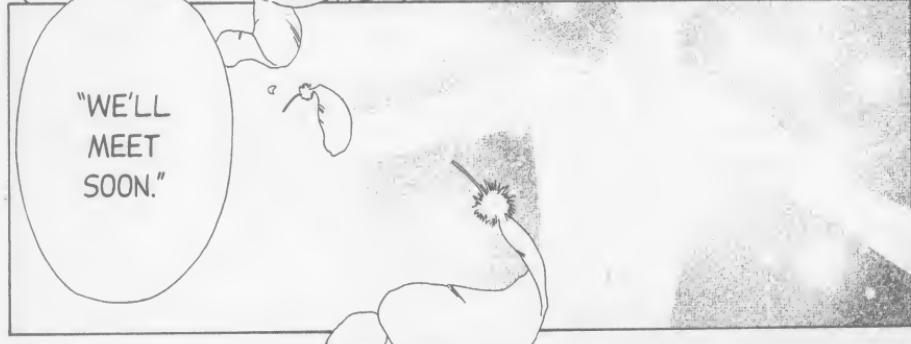
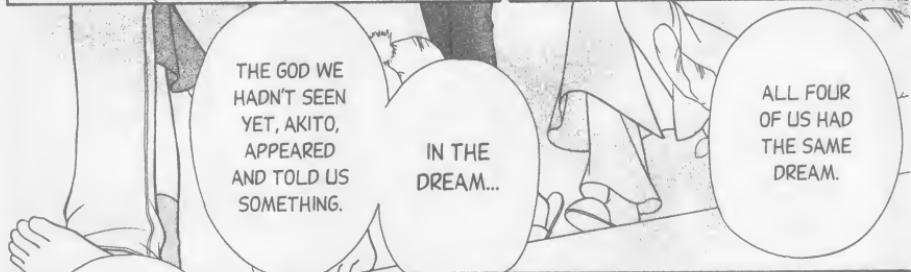
SHE DOESN'T BELIEVE IN THE "BOND" BETWEEN AKITO AND THE ZODIAC.



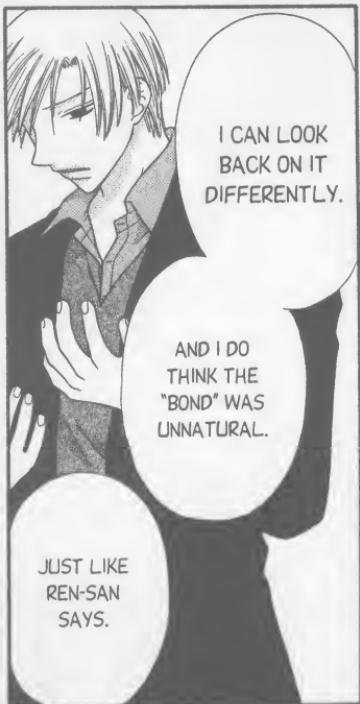
THAT DAY...



SHE THINKS IT'S A MISTAKE.









AKITO-
SAN...



A
CRYING
GIRL.

A
CRYING
AKITO.

I COULD
NEVER
LEAVE...

"CARRY
ME."

"HATORI."

"HATORI."



...I'M SORRY.



I WANTED YOU TO KNOW, JUST A LITTLE...

I WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT AKITO IS BATTERED AND TORN HIMSELF.

I KNOW AKITO HURTS PEOPLE WITHOUT ANY QUALEMS, BUT...

LISTEN.

MORE.

...WHY I CAN'T LEAVE HIM.

BUT THE WORDS WON'T COME.

I SHOULD HAVE MORE TO SAY.

I SHOULD HAVE MORE...

THEY WON'T.

...TO SAY.

STILL.

THIS IS THE PATH I'VE CHOSEN.

I CHOSE IT ON MY OWN.

I'VE CHOSEN IT.

...IS HURT PEOPLE.

I'M SORRY.

ALL I EVER DO...



AND
THANK
YOU.

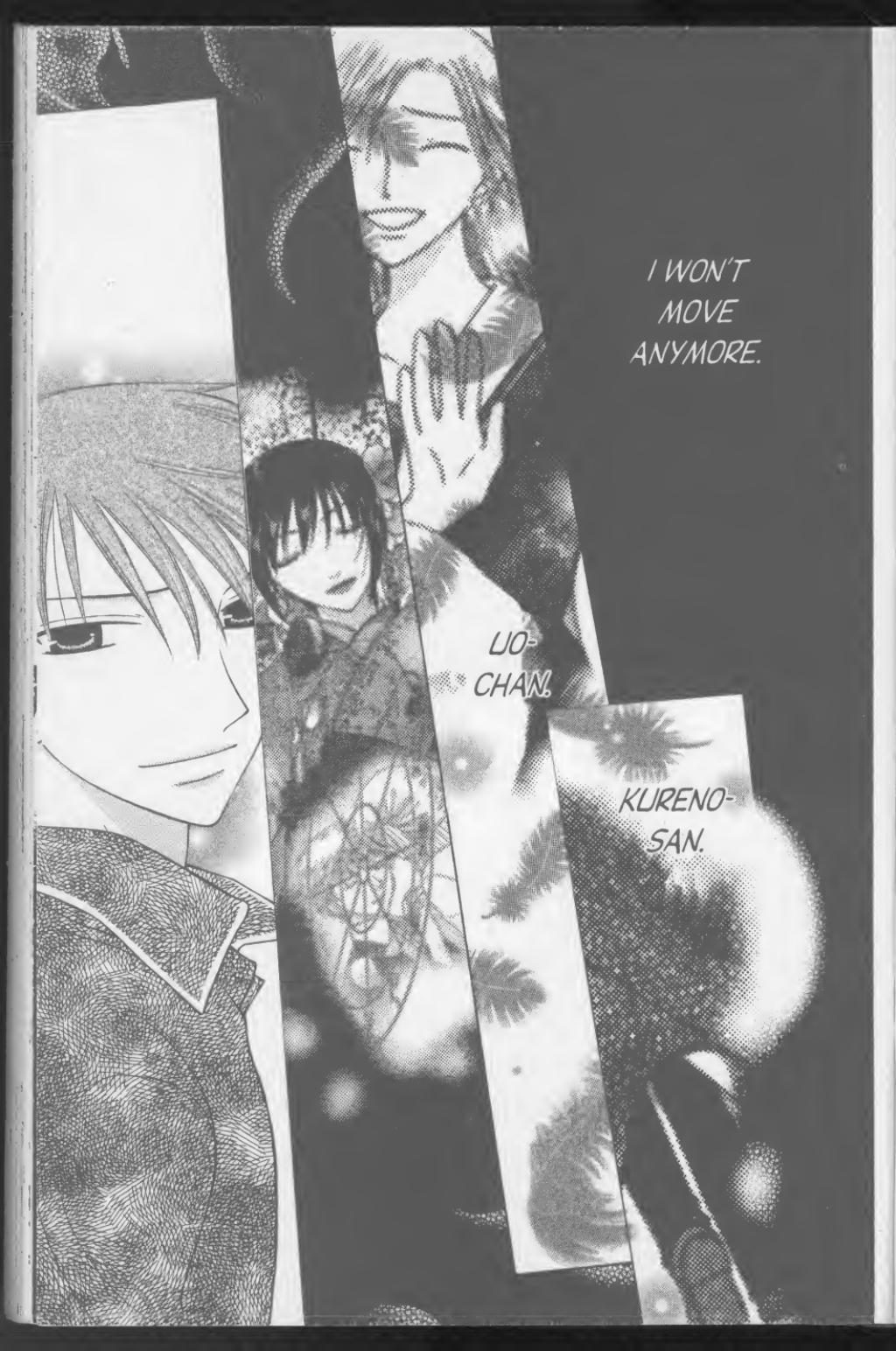
I'M THE
ONE WHO
DECIDED TO
DO THIS.

FOR
EVERYTHING.

...MOVE
ANYMORE.

...I'M
SORRY.

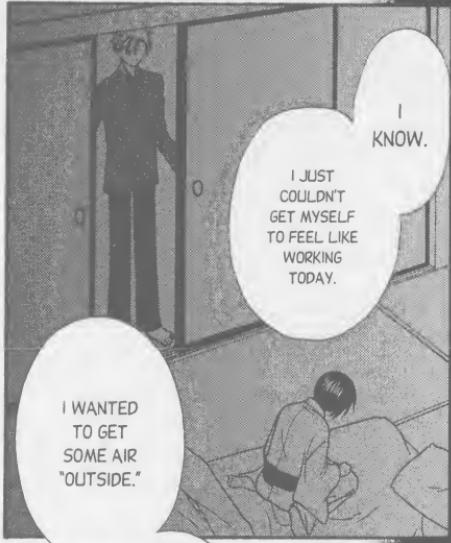




I WON'T
MOVE
ANYMORE.

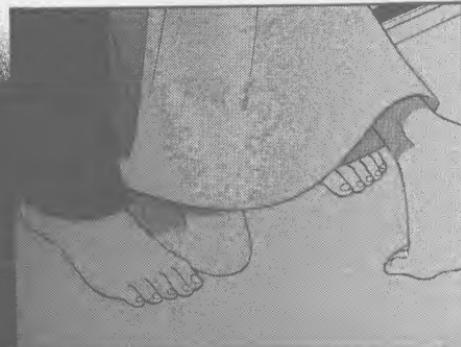
UO-
CHAN.

KURENO-
SAN.



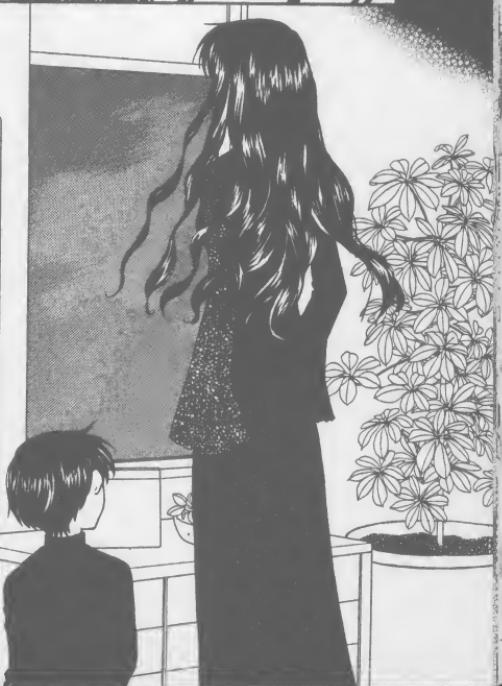


ALL THIS
SADNESS...
...IS
CONNECTED
LIKE A
SPIRAL.



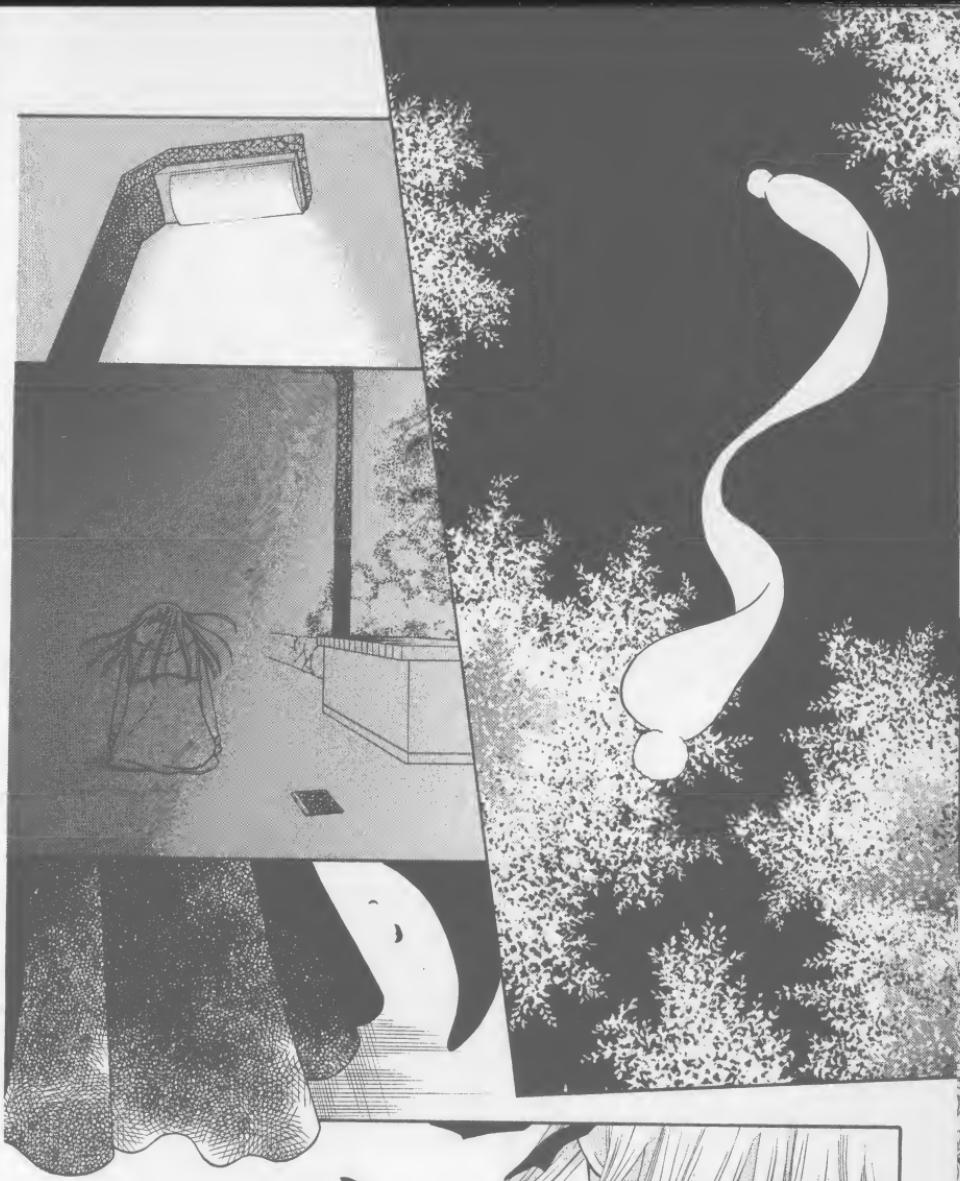


AND I
CAN'T
MOVE.





Chapter 99







Regarding this girl, letters usually tell me "I like her, but I wouldn't want her as a friend."

Kimi.



- With her father and mother, Kimi is in a family of three.
- Her father is elite, so she grew up in a fairly affluent home.
- When creating Kimi, my top priority was to make a girl who had absolutely no connection with the Sohma family or emotional pain.
- But I get the feeling that she's uselessly lively.
- And my editor told me, "You like drawing girls like this, don't you?"
- In Chapter 66, when Kakeru said, "But really, she's just—" I got a letter asking if the end to that sentence was "an okama." That's a reader with a good memory. (laugh).

Why an okama? Isn't an okama a drag queen?

DO YOU REALIZE
WHAT YOU
SOUND LIKE,
HANAJIMA-SAN?

I SAID I'VE
TAKEN TOHRU-
KUN INTO MY
CUSTODY.

I WON'T
BE GIVING
HER BACK
TONIGHT.

I SEE...
THEN
WE'LL
LEAVE IT
AT THAT.

YIKES.

NO.

IT'S FINE
AND ALL...

BUT STILL
A LITTLE
WEIRD.

ARE YOU
OBJECTING TO
OUR HAVING
A NIGHTWEAR
SOIREE...?

YOU MEAN
YOU'RE
HAVING A
PAJAMA
PARTY.

← To be continued





YOU MEAN
TALENT!





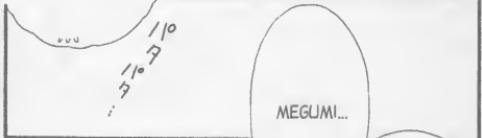
I'LL BE
SURE TO.



OH!

SHE SAYS
SHE'S NOT
HUNGRY.
IT'S MORE
IMPORTANT
TO MAKE
THE TEA.

YOU'RE
RIGHT. OH,
DEAR. TEA!



MEGUMI...

WHEN
SHE GETS
HERE...TAKE
CARE OF
THINGS.



は



...I
PRESUME.

SOMETHING
UPSETTING
HAPPENED.



"ARISA..."

"I WON'T
BE SEEING
ARISA."

"...BEEN
BROKEN."

"FOR THE
SAKE OF
THAT GIRL"

"AKITO'S
MOTHER"

"ARISA..."

KURENO-SAN...

KURENO-SAN
IS A...SOHMA.

KURENO...

...TO
MEET WITH
UO-CHAN...

I
JUST...

AND I
A-ASKED
HIM.

I
WANTED
HIM...

BUT HE
SAYS...

KURENO...

HE
TOLD
ME
THAT.

HE SAYS
HE CAN'T
SEE HER.

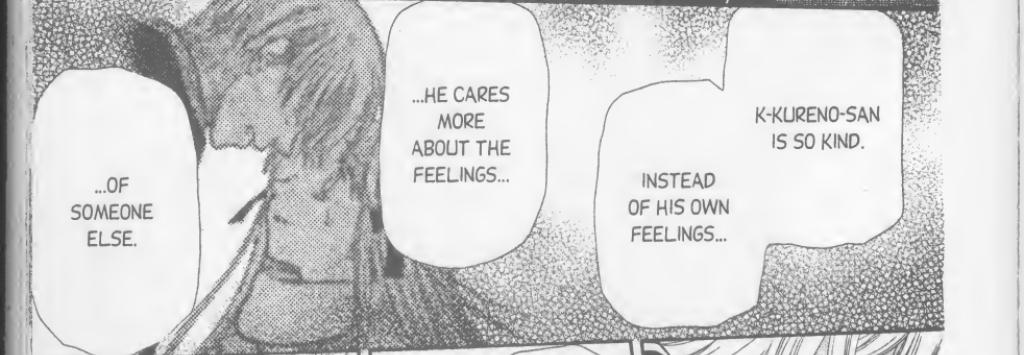
...SAN...!



...THERE'S
SOMEONE
ELSE...

BE-
CAUSE...

HE HAS
TO BE
WITH.



...OF
SOMEONE
ELSE.

...HE CARES
MORE
ABOUT THE
FEELINGS...

K-KURENO-SAN
IS SO KIND.

INSTEAD
OF HIS OWN
FEELINGS...



...DO
ANYTHING...!

ALL I'VE
DONE IS
CAUSE
TROUBLE.

I
COULDN'T...

BUT I
COULDN'T...

I
COULDN'T.

H
COULDN'T
SAY
ANYTHING.



HM.

HE CARES
MORE
ABOUT THE
FEELINGS
OF OTHERS,
DOES HE?



THEN THAT
MAKES
HIM JUST
LIKE YOU,
TOHRU-KUN.



I...



I DO WORRY
ABOUT YOU.



LIO-CHAN.

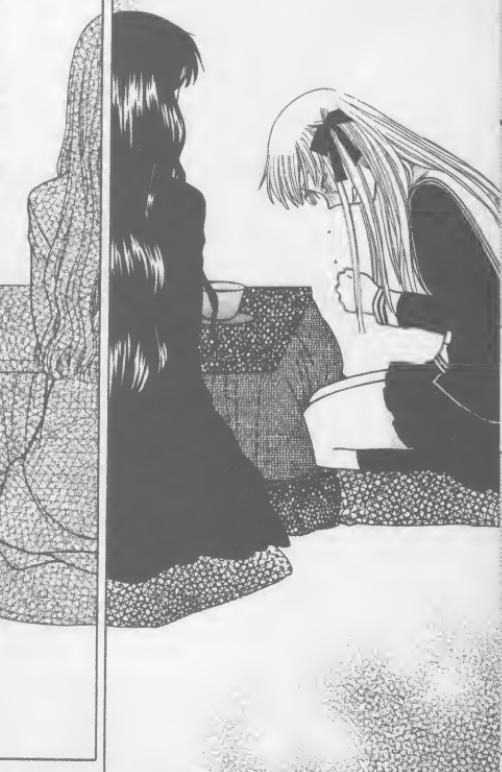


KURENO-
SAN.



I
COULDN'T
...

...BE
OF ANY
HELP ...!















I LOVE
YOU...

...YOU
IDIOT.



SO JUST
LEAVE IT.

IT CAN'T
BE
HELPED.

I HATE
CAUSING
PROBLEMS...

...FOR
PEOPLE
LIKE YOU.

KURENO-
SAN, I
MEAN.

HE IS A LOT
LIKE YOU.

YOU'RE THE
SAME KIND
OF STUPID.

I MUST
REALLY
LIKE THAT
KIND OF
STUPID,
HUUH?

IT CAN'T
BE
HELPED.





THAT'S
ALREADY
MY CREED.

WELL,
OBVIOUSLY.



OH! MAY I
HELP WITH
SOMETHING?

EASY
THERE.

I'M
SURROUNDED
BY OLDER
WOMEN. HOW
VERY EXCITING.

WELL,
NOW.

SHALL WE
START THIS
PARTY?



THEY
FELL
ASLEEP.



INDEED.



IT
SEEMS...

SHE'S
PROBABLY A
BIT RELIEVED.



THAT
MAY
BE...



I WONDER
IF THE
POSSIBILITY
IS GONE?

HM.

...MORNING
STILL
ALWAYS
COMES.

ALWAYS.

HAS THERE
EVER BEEN
A NIGHT
THAT HAD
NO DAWN?

ナリ

LOVE IS
DIFFICULT.

INDEED...

WHATEVER
HAPPENS IN
THE NIGHT...









I WANT TO
UNTANGLE
THE CORDS,
ONE BY ONE.





ALL THE
THINGS THAT
KURENO-SAN
TOLD ME.

HE SAID SO
MUCH.



Filler
Sketch



*I keep making her
cause problems...*



Chapter 100



Filler
Sketch



Ah!
YES! WE'LL
BE USING
THEM
AT THE
GRADUATION
CEREMONY.

WHAT'S
THIS?

WILL YOU
BE USING
THEM AT
SCHOOL?

YOU'RE
MAKING PAPER
FLOWERS?
THAT BRINGS
ME BACK.

And then
you'll all
be third
years.

Ha.
ALMOST
GRADUATION
TIME ALREADY,
HUH?

BUT WE NEED SO
MANY I CAN'T MAKE
THEM ALL, SO I
DECIDED TO WORK
ON THEM AT HOME.

OUR CLASS
IS IN CHARGE
OF MAKING
FLOWERS.

Time
flies.



YOU ASKED ME
THE OTHER DAY,
AND I ENDED
UP BEING A DAY
LATE. IT WAS
TERRIBLY RUDE!

So
please!

ARE THERE
ANY ERRANDS
YOU'D LIKE
ME TO RUN
TOMORROW?!

UH,
UM,
I MEAN...

ER...

あ
い
ち
!

OKAY.

UM, THAT
IS, N-NEXT
TIME I'LL
DO MY
BEST,
SO...!

But!
DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT.
I'M FINE.

YOU
BOUGHT THE
ENVELOPES
FOR ME
THE NEXT
MORNING,
ANYWAY.

OKAY.

I-I'M
GOING TO
MAKE
SOME
TEA.

Um...
yes...

Y--



I CAN'T
ASK HIM!

LUGH.



IT'S A
DIFFICULT
TOPIC TO
BRING UP.

I
UNDER-
STAND.

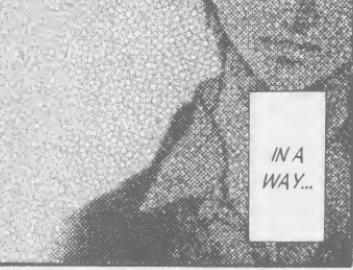


AND
WHY
SHOULD
I ASK?



BE-
SIDES...

IT'S
JUST...
PRYING.



...THE
WORDS
KURENO-
SAN SAID
AS HE
LEFT.

IN A
WAY...

Continued →

• Kimi-chan really thinks that all the men around her love her from the bottom of their hearts, all the women around her are there to make her look better by contrast, and that if they all like her, she can go out with as many people as she wants. She considers that permissible. It's nice that Kimi-chan is so honest with herself (laugh)!

• I hope you can always be like that.

It's all right;
I'm sure she will.



• Come to think of it, I don't think I've ever drawn this guy smiling...

Nao-hito.

• With his father, mother, eldest sister (full-fledged member of society), and next older sister (college student), Nao-chan has a family of five.

• To be continued



...IT
WAS LIKE
PEERING
DOWN INTO
A DEEP,
DARK
WELL.

AKITO-
SAN IS A
WOMAN.

AND THERE
ARE PROBLEMS
BETWEEN HER
AND HER MOTHER
REN-SAN.

AND
KURENO-
SAN...



IT LOOKS LIKE
THERE'S STILL
A LOT TO DO.
BUT ISN'T IT
FUN MAKING SO
MUCH NOISE WITH
EVERYBODY?

I GUESS IT'S
SAD FOR THE
THIRD YEARS,
THOUGH--
THEY
HAVE TO
GRADUATE.

I THINK YOU'RE...

YES!
TWINS!

SO'S MY
CLASS.

WE'RE
TWINS!
♥



OF
COURSE
IT'S SAD!

WHAT'S WRONG
WITH YOU?!
POPPING UP OUT
OF NOWHERE AND
BEING AS RUDE
AS YOU'VE EVER
BEEN!

AH!

I
can't
do
that!

JUST
STAY
BACK A
GRADE.

PAPA
WAS
PANICKING
AGAIN.

BUT
WHEN
MOMO
GETS
HERE...

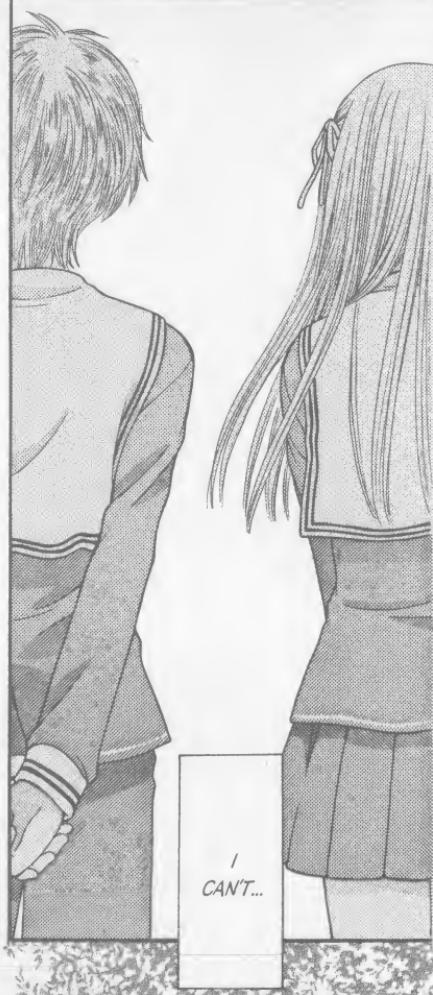
...I'LL HAVE
GRADUATED
ALREADY.

I WAS
THINKING
ABOUT
STAYING
BACK A
GRADE,
TOO.

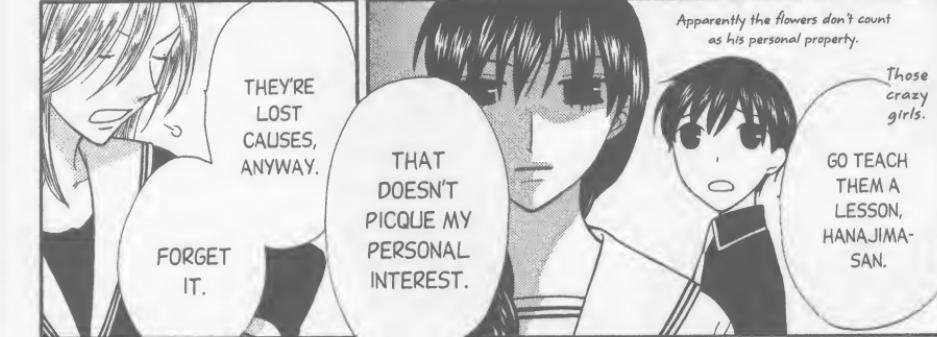
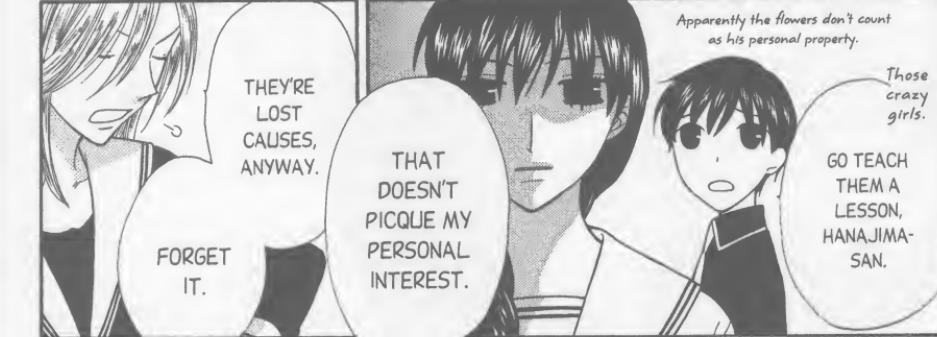
WHAT?!

BECAUSE
OF MOMO,
Y'KNOW?

I HEAR SHE
WANTS
TO COME
TO THIS
SCHOOL!



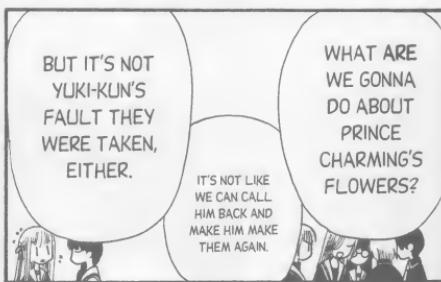




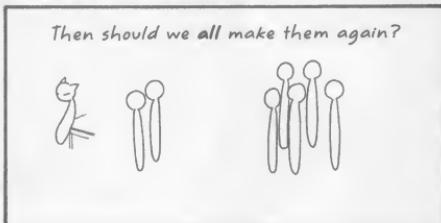




AT ANY RATE, YOU'D BETTER REDO THEM.



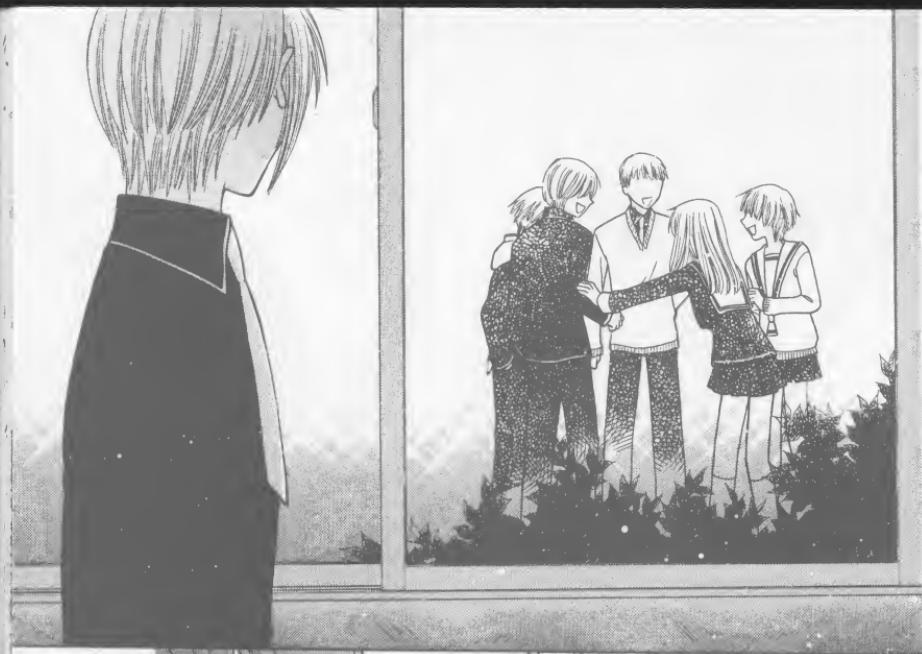
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO ABOUT PRINCE CHARMING'S FLOWERS?







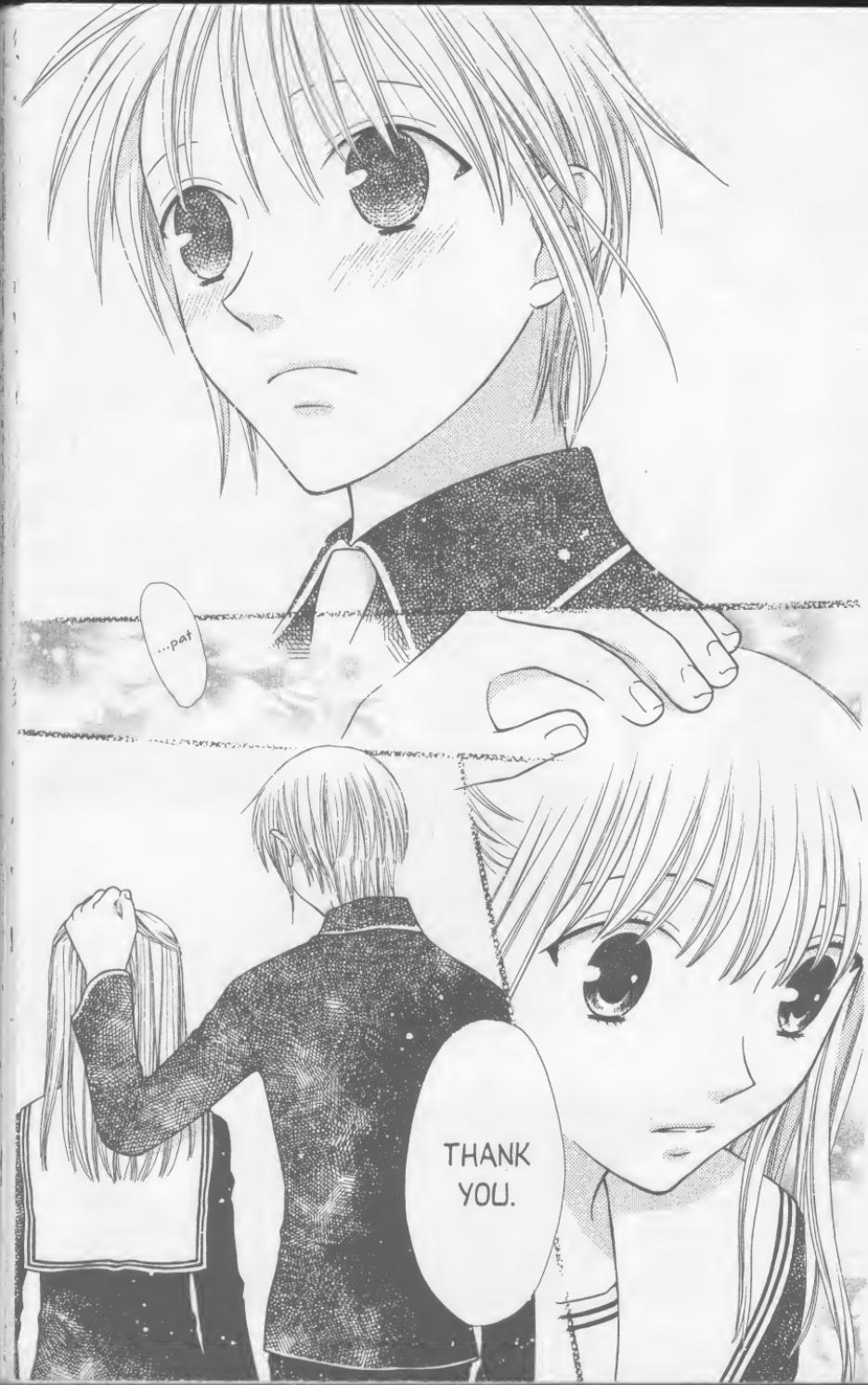










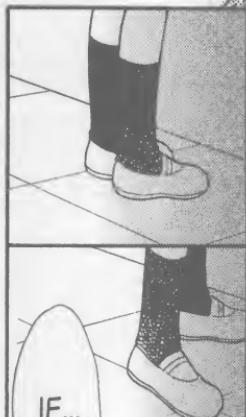






"...HAS
ALREADY
BEEN
BROKEN."

"MY
CURSE..."



WHAT
WOULD
YOU THINK?

UM...

IF THERE
WAS SOME-
BODY...

...WHOSE
ZODIAC
CURSE WAS
BROKEN...

DON'T ASK
"WHAT IF'S"
ABOUT
THAT
CURSE
STUFF.

CUT IT
OUT.

WHAT
WOULD I
THINK?

I
DUNNO.

WHAT'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

WHY'RE
YOU ALL
DEPRESSED
NOW?!

HEY!

HUH?

WHAT
DO I
DO?

I'M NOT
ACTUALLY
MAD OR
ANYTHING!

WAIT!
DON'T...
JUST DON'T
APOLOGIZE!

WAS IT HOW
I SAID IT?!

WAS THERE
SOMETHING
WRONG
WITH HOW
I SAID IT?!

I'M
SORRY!

I'M SORRY...
IT WAS
THOUGHTLESS
OF ME.

NO.

W--





"...ABOUT
YOU."



"ABOUT
YOU."

In a
good
way.

BUT
I'M
TIRED.

WE'VE APPRE-
HENDED THE
CRIMINALS!

IT WAS
VERY
REWARD-
ING.

HI.

It was
a fair
judg-
ment.

HOW
ARE YOU
FEELING?

Yeah.

THEY'RE JUST
HAPPY WE
DIDN'T TAKE
THE STOLEN
ONES BACK.

THEN WE
FORCED THEM
TO MAKE
AS MANY
FLOWERS AS
THEY TOOK.

Eh?!

WE CAN
LEAVE
NOW,
TOHRU-
KUN.

Let's
go.

WE'VE
RESOLVED
THE CASE
WITHOUT
INCIDENT!

WE
CAUGHT
THE
THIEVES
AND ALL.

WELL,
NOT THAT
I MADE
IT ALL
MYSELF.

YOU MAY NOT
BE FAMILIAR
WITH THIS
KIND OF THING,
AKITO-SAN.

I GOT YOU
A LITTLE
GIFT.

IT'S AN
EASY-
TO-MAKE
FLOWER.

DO
YOU...

REMEM-
BER...?

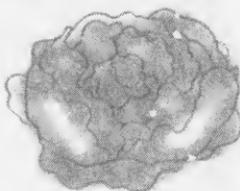
REMEMBER
WHAT?



"I CARE
ABOUT YOU."

"AND THAT IS
THE HONEST..."

"...AND
UNSHAKABLE
TRUTH."



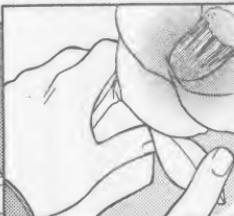


Chapter 101

DO YOU
LIKE ME?

SHIGURE.





AKITO.

I LOVE
YOU.

MORE
THAN
I CARE
ABOUT
ANYONE.

AND THAT
IS THE
HONEST...

...AND
UNSHAKABLE
TRUTH.





• I made Nao-chan a boy who has no relation to the axis of the story as well. That makes me think Nao-chan is uselessly lively, too.

• Women are the majority in his family, and he grew up with his two older sisters taking loving care of him (laugh).

• He's worked like a slave, always being told to go buy this or go get that.

• I think it may be one of Nao-chan's good traits that, even while he's complaining about it, he'll grant their requests.

• But him liking "that person" might actually be because he has a sister complex.

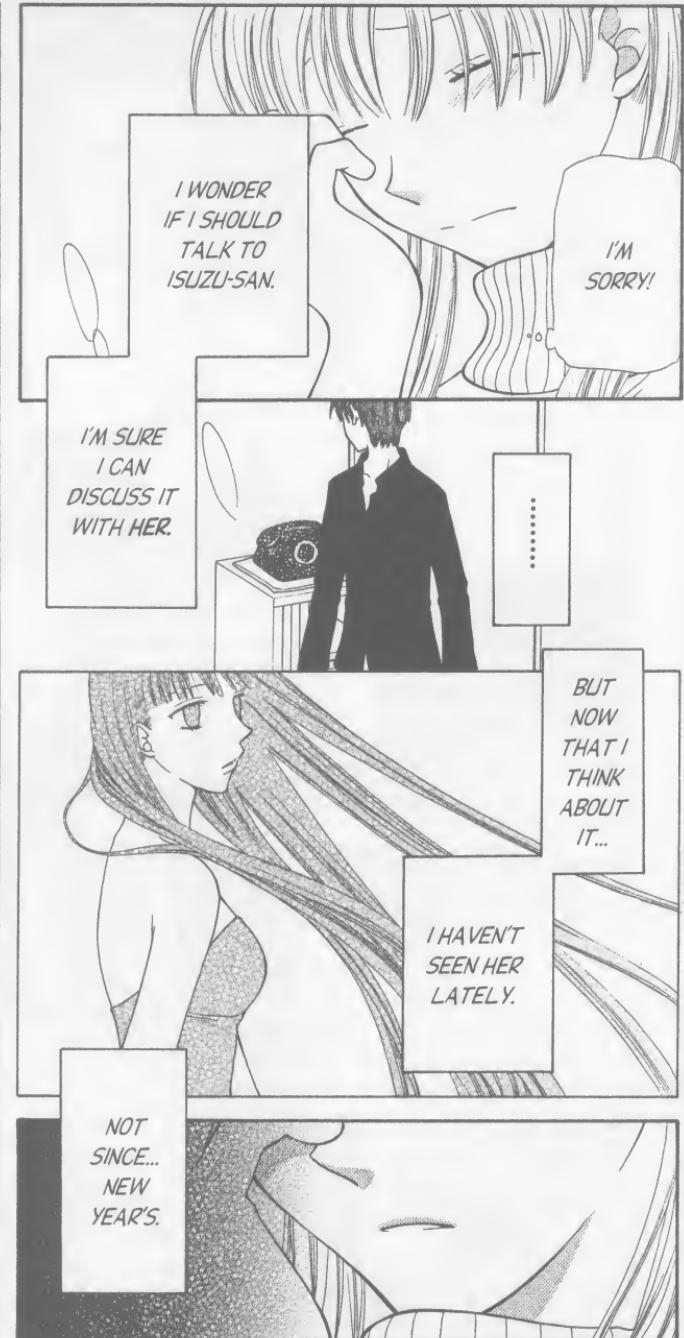
• Kakeru thinks he's taking loving care of him, too, in the way he treats him.

• From the reader's point of view, it might be irritating to have a character whose heart isn't complete yet, but from the writer's perspective, it's pretty fun.

WHAT?
HEH
HEH.

YOU WERE
THINKING
SUCH A WEIRD
THING IN THE
BOTTOM OF
YOUR HEART?

In the
drama
CD, she
pretended
to be
modest,
didn't she?



I JUST
FELT
UNEASY.

...FOR A
MOMENT...

FOR SOME
REASON...

HEY.

OH.

SHIGURE
SAYS HE'S
GONNA BE
BACK LATE,
AFTER ALL.

PLEASE,
COME!

ISUZU-
SAN'S HIGH
SCHOOL
SHOULD BE
NEXT TO
KISA-SAN'S
MIDDLE
SCHOOL.

I'LL
GO SEE
HER.

ALL
RIGHT.

HE
PROBABLY
WANTS TO
DRIVE HER
NUTS.

LATE? HE
WAS GOING
OUT TO
EAT WITH
HIS EDITOR,
WASN'T HE?

I'LL GO
SEE HER.

PLEASE
CHANGE
THAT!

BUT I THINK
SENSEI
LIKES YOU,
MITCHAN.

AND DIDN'T
YOU USED
TO TALK
ABOUT HOW
ATTRACTIVE
HE IS?

MITCHAN,
YOU WORRY
TOO MUCH.
AND YOU'RE
SOHMA-
SENSEI'S
EDITOR.

PLEASE,
YOU HAVE
TO COME
SAVE ME!

I THINK I'VE TRIED
HARD ENOUGH
ALREADY, AND I
DON'T HAVE THE
CONFIDENCE THAT
I'LL BE ABLE TO
STAY SANE LONG
ENOUGH TO MAKE
IT HOME SAFELY
TONIGHT!

A
AA
AA
AA
AH
!!

ANYWAY,
IT'S A
BUSINESS
DINNER, SO
YOU HAVE
TO GO.

Did
you
know
?!

THERE'S A
DEVIL WHO
PRETENDS TO
BE HUMAN
ADRIFT AT SEA
AND GETS ON
THE BOAT!

EXCUSE
ME?

Talking about a movie.



THOSE
WERE YOUR
PARENTS?!

SORRY TO
SAY, BUT
I HAVE
PARENTS,
TOO.
Even me.

THAT'S RIGHT.
EVEN THE
DIFFERENCE IN
SOCIAL STATUS
BETWEEN YOU
AND RITCHAN IS
TREMENDOUS.

THE SOHMAS
SEEM LIKE AN
INCREDIBLE
FAMILY.

I always
thought as
much.

Oh...
Main
house...
dinner...

I want
to see
your
parents'
faces!
No!

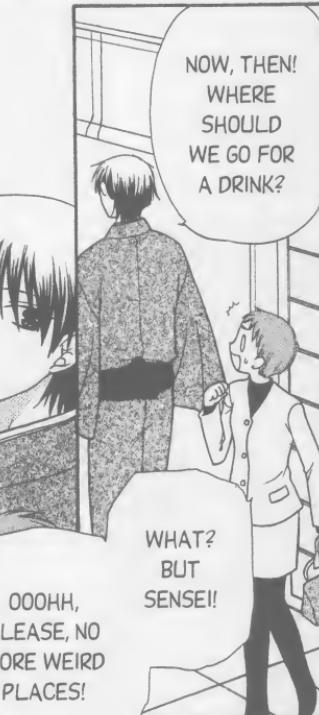
DON'T BOTHER.
I'M SURE
THEY'LL JUST
SHOO AWAY
OUTSIDERS.

THE GREAT
HEAD
OF THE
FAMILY
MAKES HIS
ENTRANCE.

OH,
LOOK.

You have
the worst
taste in
restaurants,
Mitchan.

PEOPLE
CHOSEN
FROM THE
MAIN HOUSE
ARE HAVING
DINNER
TOGETHER
TONIGHT.





I TOLD
HIM TO
SAY
HELLO,
BUT...

SHOULD I
GO AFTER
HIM?



LEAVE
IT.

COME ON,
KURENO.

"DON'T YOU
THINK YOU
SHOULD'VE
LEFT HIM?"

"FOR AKITO-
SAN'S
SAKE."

"AND
NOT
JUST
THEN."

"FOR HIS
SAKE
NOW."

DID YOU
KNOW I WAS
RELEASED
FROM THE
CURSE?

...VERY
SURPRISED.

YOU
DON'T
SEEM...

IT WOULD
BE NICE IF I
COULD SAY
SOMETHING
THAT MADE
ME LOOK
THAT GOOD.

BUT NOW THAT
I'M HEARING IT, I
FEEL A LITTLE
BETTER.

HM.

BUT IT WAS
JUST A HUNCH,
UNFORTUNATELY.

NII-SAN...

HE'S SO
DESPERATE
IT'S SAD.

HE
WOULDN'T
WANT
PEOPLE TO
FIND OUT.

THAT WOULD
GIVE HIM
MORE REASON
TO KEEP YOU
BY HIS SIDE
FOREVER.

I THINK
I UNDER-
STAND...

HOW
YOU
FEEL
ABOUT
THIS.

ISN'T
THAT
NICE?

NOW YOU
CAN PRETEND
TO BE
DISAPPOINTED
TO YOUR
HEART'S
CONTENT.

AND YOU
SHOULD BE
GRATEFUL
THAT I'M BEING
SO HONEST
WITH YOU.

I DO
HATE
YOU.

AND I
KNOW
THAT YOU
HATE ME.

BUT--

EVEN
NOW.

THE ONE
HE REALLY
WANTS IS...

I WANT
YOU TO
STOP
TREATING
HIM SO
COLDLY.

AKITO
DOESN'T
KEEP ME
BY HIS SIDE
BECAUSE HE
LIKES ME.

NII-
SAN.

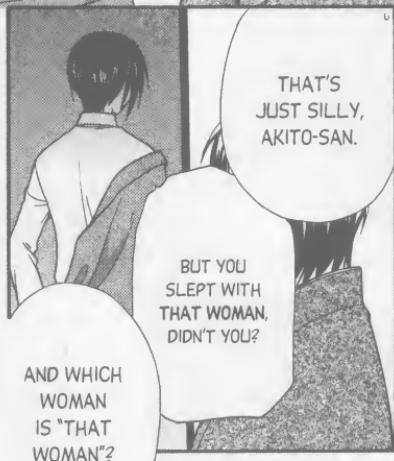
I
HOPE...

I
MEAN...
IT'S
ALWAYS
BEEN THE
SAME
THING.

...YOU
WON'T
ABANDON
AKITO.







I
MEAN
REN!

AND THAT'S
WHY I'M
LIVING IN
THAT HOUSE.

LISTEN
TO YOU.

YOU LEFT
WITHOUT
RESISTING
IN THE
SLIGHTEST!

YOU TOLD
ME TO GET
OUT OF HERE,
REMEMBER?

AND YOU
ALREADY
PUNISHED
ME FOR IT.

THAT
WAS A
LONG
TIME
AGO.

HOW
DARE
YOU?!

HOW DARE
YOU DO THAT
WITH HER?!

...AND AWAY FROM ME!

YOU WERE LOOKING FOR AN EXCUSE TO LEAVE, WEREN'T YOU?!

YOU WANTED TO GET AWAY!

AWAY FROM HERE...

YOU LIKE THAT WOMAN BETTER THAN--

"I CARE ABOUT YOU."

YOU LIKE HER.

SHIGURE.

THAT'S WHY YOU AND THAT WOMAN WENT AND...

"MORE THAN I CARE ABOUT ANYONE."



...I WANT TO
SPOIL HER
ROTTEN.

I'M
SPECIAL!

I'M FREE
TO DO
WHATEVER I
WANT WITH
MY ZODIAC!

I CAN DO
ANYTHING
I WANT!

"I LOVE
AKITO."

"THEN
AND
NOW."

"I
LOVE
HER."

"I LOVE
HER SO
MUCH..."

WHAT
DO
YOU...



ARE YOU
SAYING
THIS IS MY
FAULT?!

I DIDN'T DO
ANYTHING
WRONG!



DON'T
MAKE THIS
MY FAULT!

"DON'T
MIS-
UNDER-
STAND,
KURENO."

WE'LL
JUST KEEP
REPEATING
THE SAME
THINGS
THAT WE
ALWAYS DO.

IF
YOU DON'T
UNDER-
STAND...

THEN
LET'S
STOP
TALKING
ABOUT
THIS.

THAT'LL
ONLY MAKE
YOUR MOOD
WORSE.

I'LL GO
HOME
FOR
TODAY.

•••••!!

"I WANT TO
TRAMPLE HER
TO A PULP."



FOR SOMEONE
WHO'S
DENIED HER
"WOMANHOOD"...

...YOU SURE
DO RESORT...

...TO
USING IT
QUICKLY.

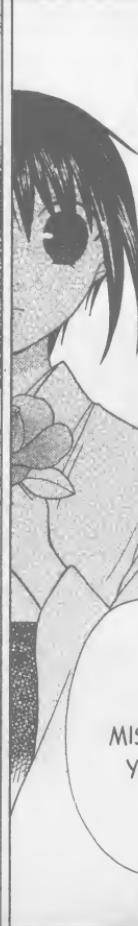
"I'LL
BE
HERE."



"I'LL
BE
HERE."



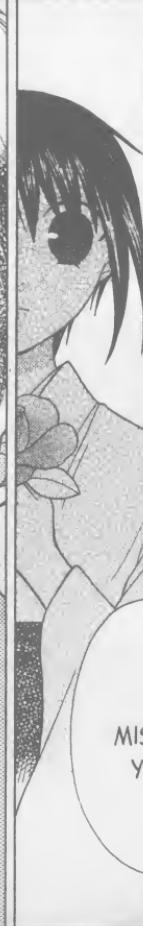
FOR
ETER-
NITY
...



...I'LL
BE
HERE.



I'M
ALWAYS
THINKING
OF YOU.



I
MISSED
YOU.

YOU JUST
DON'T
REALIZE IT.

JUST LIKE
THAT DAY.

I'LL
ALWAYS
BE HERE.



...BE
WAITING.

RIGHT
HERE.

HEY, IS SOHMA-
SAN GONNA
BE ABLE TO
GRADUATE?

I...I SEE.
THANK
YOU VERY
MUCH.

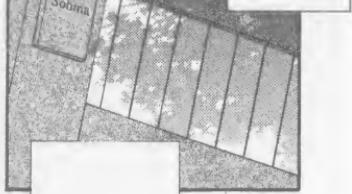
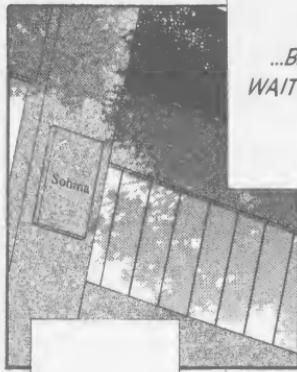
I'M SURE HER
FAMILY'LL
PAY THE
SCHOOL WHEN
THE TIME
COMES.

ANYWAY, DO
YOU THINK
THAT GIRL
IS SOHMA-
SAN'S
FRIEND?

SHE'S GOT
A FRIEND?
NO WAY!

You're
awful!
Ha ha!

I'LL
ALWAYS...



I'LL BE
WAITING...

...FOR
YOU.



To Be Continued in Volume 18.

I feel so
grateful!
♪

...She says.

Harada-sama, Araki-sama,
Mother-sama, Editor-sama

And everyone who reads and
supports this manga.

Next is the one whom I feel is now
completely recognized as "Kyo's father."

This has been...

高屋奈月 たかや なつき
Natsuki Takaya.



Next time in...

Fruits Basket



Everyone knows Rin is in the hospital...or is she? While Hatsuharu searches for Isuzu, he discovers that Isuzu had planned to swipe an item from Akito... an item that might just allow her to break the curse! So, what has actually happened to Rin? Read *Fruits Basket* 18 to find out!

Fruits Basket Volume 18
Available November 2007

Fans Basket

Wow! Volume 17 sure had some shockers, huh? How many of you were suspicious of Akito, I wonder? I'd really like to see some drawings of Akito as a woman, in her true gender! As usual, I have a never-ending mountain of "Fans Basket" mail to dig through... If your art gets picked, it's pretty much just the luck of the draw! But I honestly do read everything you send, and even if it's not ever printed, it probably put a smile on my face. So thanks! Okay, so let's see what's been chosen for this volume!

Oh! And don't stop reading after you've seen all the fan art! Thanks to TOKYOPOP copy editor Stephanie Duchin, we have a Furuba-themed "Cosplay Special" at the end of this volume! Enjoy!

- Paul Morrissey, Editor

Navy H.
Age 16
Calgary, Canada



6/27/06

Take a really close look at Tohru's skirt... What a fun way to include the other *Fruits Basket* characters in your piece, Navy! I also really like the badges worn by Yuki and Kyo!



Excellent pen and ink work, Barrie.
Your flowers look amazing! Thanks
for being such a great fan!

Barrie Thomas
Age 19
Menifee, CA

Sarah Tekawa
Age 12
San Lorenzo, CA

Sarah would like
everyone to know
that she was 11 when
she drew this. That's
very impressive!
I hope you're still
drawing, Sarah. You
have a lot of talent.

Kyo Sohma

